GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:384
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
FOODGRAINS AVAILABILITY IN REMOTE AREAS
Singh Dr. Ram Lakhan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding non-availability and non-distribution of foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS), Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in the remote and inaccessible areas of the country has been received during the last two years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for failure to supply adequate quantity of foodgrains to these regions during the said period; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to ensure adequate and timely distribution of foodgrains in such areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b) & (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 384 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 21.04.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.A few complaints have been received from individuals, organizations and through press reports about non-availability and non-distribution of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States. A statement containing State-wise details of complaints received during 2006, 2007 and 2008 is enclosed. Government of India has ensured adequate availability of foodgrains for all BPL and AAY families. The responsibility for ensuring further transportation and proper distribution to eligible ration card holders is of the State and UT Governments. Therefore, all the complaints have been sent to the concerned State and UT Governments for taking appropriate action.

(c): Government of India allocates foodgrains to all States and UTs as per applicable norms. These allocations of the foodgrains are issued in advance. As per existing instructions, FCI delivers the allocated foodgrains to State and UT Governments from its depots/godowns. Decentralized procurement States also lift the allocated foodgrains from the stocks maintained by them.

In some rare cases if FCI is not able to deliver the allocated quantities to State and UT Governments from the designated depots/godowns, it delivers them from the nearest depots/godowns.

For remote and inaccessible areas in States, advance allocations of foodgrains are also permitted for stocking during monsoon and winter seasons.